

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
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April 6, 2015

Testimony to the Finance Committee

SB-947 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority is a not-for-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the state. Our mission is to provide our customers with high quality water at a reasonable cost while promoting the preservation of watershed land and aquifers. We provide approximately 46 million gallons of water per day to some 430,000 consumers in 15 communities in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. Much of our 27,000 acres of land is managed for watershed protection, timber resource conservation, wildlife habitat, open space, education, and research.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) supports the provision in **SB-947, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES**, which provides funding for the protection of Open Space Lands.

The RWA has been involved in the protection of over 1,200 acres in the water district that were leveraged with the help of Connecticut open space grant funding. Other land conservation organizations within our district have benefited from these grants as well. Many of these transactions would not have occurred without the state grants. In addition to moving Connecticut closer to its open space goals and protecting these properties from development, the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant program enables the protection of lands critical for protecting the quality of public drinking water sources.

Thank you for considering the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's comments. For more information, please contact John Triana, Real Estate Manager at, 203-401-2749 or j triana1@rwater.com